



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

June 14, 2022

Eric Reid
Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Eric:

The electronic monitoring (EM) video footage review rate in fishing year 2022 for the audit model program will be 35 percent for experienced vessels and 50 percent for newer vessels. Experienced vessels are defined as vessels that participated in the EM program while it operated under an exempted fishing permit (EFP) and took a minimum of one sector trip in the operational audit model program in fishing year 2021. Experienced vessels have multiple years of experience with EM and the associated catch handling and reporting requirements. Vessels that are newer to the audit model will remain at the 50 percent video footage review rate in 2022 to allow more opportunities for feedback on their catch handling and reporting performance. These video footage review rates are fixed and will apply for the entirety of fishing year 2022. Setting review rates based on individual vessel performance in the audit model program was not possible for fishing year 2022. However, we will continue to explore metrics for evaluating and categorizing vessel performance to inform video footage review rates for future fishing years.

Vessels enrolled in an audit model EM program are required to use EM on 100 percent of trips; only a subset of these trips are selected for review to compare the discards seen on the video footage against the discards reported by the vessel operator on the vessel trip report. The audit model provides necessary confidence in the catch data for catch accounting. Our video review rate determination is based on an analysis of past performance completed by the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office's Analysis and Program Support Division to provide a reasonable expectation of achieving a 30-percent coefficient of variation (CV30), or better, precision level for each groundfish species. Based on the results of the analysis, the minimum review rate required to achieve a CV30 for all groundfish species in fishing year 2020 was 35 percent of sector trips. While we used a CV30 standard to select video review rates for fishing year 2022, we are not required to use a CV30 standard and may employ a different approach in future fishing years based on data collected and evaluated under an operational program.

Analyses included in Amendment 23 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan documented that using a CV30 was an insufficient basis for determining the necessary at-sea monitoring coverage target, without modification, because observer bias resulted in observed trips not being representative of unobserved trips. However, in the audit model EM program, cameras are on, and catch handling protocols are followed, on 100 percent of groundfish trips. Selection of trips for review occurs after a trip ends and the vessel operator has submitted the



required data elements, which minimizes, or eliminates, the potential for observer bias effects on audit model EM vessels.

We expect to continue to have funding available to reimburse industry for all of its at-sea and/or electronic monitoring costs in fishing year 2022.

If you have further questions about the fishing year 2022 audit model EM video review rate, please contact Sarah Bland, Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, at (978) 281-9257.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Pentony", is positioned above the printed name.

Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator